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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion
of Trading Opportunities for
Developing Countries
Third session
Geneva, 28 February 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with the decision taken by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session, the officers elected at the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries are to remain in office for the duration of the life of the Ad Hoc Working Group. In view of the replacement of some officers at the second session, the elected officers of the Working Group are currently as follows:

Chairman:	Mrs. Magda Shahin	(Egypt)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. I. Kinnas	(Greece)
	Mr. P. Hutabarat	(Indonesia)
	Mr. Carlos Sinencio	(Mexico)
	Mr. Y. Afanassiev	(Russian Federation)
	Mr. Herbert Dzvimbo	(Zimbabwe)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Dietmar-Gert Lackner	(Austria).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

As provided for in the calendar of meetings, the Working Group will have available five working days from 28 February to 4 march 1994. Throughout this session interpretation facilities will be available. At the first meeting, on 28 February 1994, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The work programme of the Ad Hoc Working Group calls for the Group to take into account global trends in the world economy in its examination of ways to expand the trading opportunities of developing countries. At its meeting of 16 December 1993, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group agreed that it would be desirable to address the subject of global trends at the Group's third session. The Bureau also agreed that it would be useful to invite a panel of experts to assist the Group in its analysis of global trends. In order to constitute such a panel of experts, the Bureau agreed that the Chairperson should request member States of the Ad Hoc Working Group to include relevant experts in their delegations for the third session. It was suggested that a half or a full day be devoted to a consideration of global trends and issues affecting trading opportunities of developing countries, including the panel discussion. The rest of the time of the Working Group will be primarily devoted to agenda item 3 of the agenda.

Item 3: Consideration of issues arising from the work programme of the Ad Hoc Working Group:

(a) Country presentations of national experience (export capabilities, market opportunities, export promotion and marketing)

As of 6 January 1994, presentations have been received from the following countries: Benin (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.7); Bolivia (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.2); Brazil (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.10); China (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.22); Colombia (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.8); Ecuador (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.5); Finland (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.16); France (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.19); Germany (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.9); India (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.18); Japan (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.17); Mexico (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.21); Nepal (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.15); Norway (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.23); Panama (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.4); Oman (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.6); Switzerland (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.13); Turkey (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.3); and United States of America (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.14 and Add.1). Presentations will be circulated as they are received. During the second session, 16 countries took the floor to make presentations. At the third session other countries are expected to do so.

(b) Market opportunities (regional integration arrangements, environmental measures)

The Working Group will have before it a report by the UNCTAD secretariat covering, inter alia, the first aspect under this agenda sub-item (TD/B/WG.4/7 and Corr.1). Chapter II of this report deals with the implications of regional integration arrangements for export market opportunities of developing countries and examines the possible implications of major regional integration arrangements including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the creation of a single market by the European Union, the EU's Europe Agreements with certain Central and East European countries in transition, and various integration groupings among developing countries.

With regard to the second aspect under this agenda sub-item - environmental measures - the Group decided at its second session to continue the discussion on this matter at its third session on the basis of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat presented to the second session of the Group (TD/B/WG.4/6). This will be supplemented by a briefing by the secretariat on its ongoing technical cooperation in the area of trade and environment, including eco-labelling. On this sub-item, the Working Group will also have before it a note prepared by the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC) (TD/B/WG.4/Misc.24).

(c) Technical cooperation

The Working Group will have before it a report by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Technical cooperation for the expansion of trading opportunities for developing countries" (TD/B/WG.4/10). The report describes the general needs and requirements of developing countries for technical assistance with respect to the three broad areas of building export capabilities, expanding export market opportunities, and strengthening export promotion and marketing capabilities. Attention is also drawn to relevant technical cooperation activities of selected multilateral institutions, particularly those of the United Nations system.

Item 4: Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

According to the provisional calendar for 1994, the fourth session of the Working Group is scheduled for 4-8 July 1994. A draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Working Group will be submitted for consideration in the light of the decisions of the Working Group with respect to its work programme.

Item 5: Other business

Attention is drawn to paragraph 4 of the terms of reference which specifies that: "In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences." Paragraph 4 also refers to the participation of non-governmental actors. The Working Group is invited to consider the participation of such non-governmental actors, including panels of experts, in the work of the Group.

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Trade and Development Board, fortieth session, second part (resumed), mid-term review

It will be recalled that, at its second session, the Ad Hoc Working Group recommended to the Trade and Development Board to reschedule its fourth and final session for a later date in June 1994 in order to allow it to consider the results of the Uruguay Round and their effects on the trading prospects of developing countries, and to prepare the Group's final report to Trade and Development Board. In view of this recommendation the Group agreed to submit an interim report covering the progress achieved so far on its work to the Trade and Development Board (mid-term review) scheduled for 25-27 May 1994.